

Hillcrest Encouragement

Elders

- John Barton
- Terry Brown
- Neal Coates
- Malcolm Coco
- David Copeland
- Ray Ferguson
- Duwain Houston
- Robert Marion
- Charles Perkins
- Don Pope
- C. D. Pruett
- Jack Stewart
- Phil Vardiman
- Cleddy Varner
- Gary Varner
- Odies Wright

Chairman of the Elders

Ray Ferguson
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Ministers

Nathan Burrow, *Preacher*
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Alan Clute, *Involvement/Seniors*
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Cynthia Coates, *Children*
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Justin Hatfield, *University*
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J. Sanders, *Youth*
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THE FATHER IS LISTENING

"Hear my prayer, O LORD, and give ear to my cry; Do not be silent at my tears"
Psalm 39:12

I recently came across an amazing story from the life of C.S. Lewis. An act of cruelty had cut him deep and he had prayed for God to help him forgive the offender. He later wrote in one of his memoirs that it took him thirty years before that prayer was answered. Wounds can cut deep, some more than others. Prayer is an essential in the process of softening hard hearts. How many of us are that committed to prayer? How long have you prayed to God about someone or something?

I have thought about this much in my life. As a child, I watched my mother's consistent and fervent prayer life. She was not reared in a Christian home. Yet, even in dark places, God is not far from those who seek him. She started praying for her parents and family as a little girl. There were some challenging years and rocky roads for their family, but God heard and remembered. When I was teenager I saw my mother's many tears as she longed for Christ to come into their lives. In my own discouragement, I remember telling her to give up. It was not until I was in college that my grandmother's heart began to soften and she started going to church with my aunt. My grandfather was particularly stubborn when it came to faith. Even as the years passed and my aunt and grandmother were faithfully worshipping Christ, he still resisted God, but that prayer chain had gotten stronger. I will never forget the night I received a phone call from my grandfather telling me he had confessed his faith in Christ and was baptized. It was a true miracle of God! It was the answer to a prayer that had been lifted up by my mother for nearly five decades. I'm so thankful for her prayerful persistence.

Then there is the prayer life of my wife. When she and James were married, she began a constant prayer, "Lord open his heart." They were very young when they got married and started a family. Sunday after Sunday she would go to church while James stayed home. She was like so many women in the church, married but single in the faith. She carried the torch of faith to light the house for her family. For seven years she begged God to lead her husband to Christ, until one day it happened. She was called out of the classroom at the Christian School where she worked. Not knowing what was happening, she thought she was about to receive bad news. Instead, there in the hallway stood James and the preacher from the church. Tears were rolling down his face. "I'm sorry it took so long," he said. James was baptized that day and his life was never the same. God heard Heather's prayer.

Right now, my grandfather, grandmother, and James are all in heaven. Prayer was a part of that bridge. I'm sure there is someone in your life that needs your prayerful attention. It could be someone you've prayed for, but have felt like I have in the past and given up. Can I encourage you to believe in the impossible, that God can change any heart? Keep praying. The Father is listening.

Nathan Burrow

Hillcrest Today

Welcome Guests

We are glad you are here! Please fill out a Welcome Visitor card and place in the collection plate. Go by our Information Area on the right side of the Worship Center for materials that will better acquaint you with Hillcrest.

For your convenience, the staffed nursery for children 2 months to 24 months is available. Check-in is in the foyer. The parents' nursery & training area is available to parents and children. Enter at the back of the Worship Center.

Bible Classes for All Ages

Nursery 2-24 mo.
Age 2 Room 100 Gr 1 Room 121
Age 3 Room 106 Gr 2 Room 117
Age 4 Room 107 Gr 3 Room 120
Pre-K Room 110 Gr 4 Room 213
K Room 118 Gr 5 Room 209

Young Adult Classes

Middle School Room 204
High School Room 200
University Room 17

Adult Classes

Sonrise (all ages) (8:00) Room 14
Y/O (all ages) Room 10/11
Welcome (all ages) Room 12
Soulful Filling (all ages) Room 14
Common Ground (30s & 40s) Room 16
H.O.P.E. (all ages) Room 21
Travelers (all ages) Room 30
Christ in Action (all ages) Room 52
Young Professionals (20s) Room 212
F.U.N. (all ages) Room 219
Generations (all ages) Chapel

Worship Times

Morning Worship 9 a.m.
Bible Classes 10:30 a.m.
Evening Worship 6 p.m.
Wednesday Bible Classes 7 p.m.

Glorifying God

May 7, 2017

Worship Leader Odies Wright
Hymn: #123 The Steadfast Love of the Lord
Welcome Jack Hardcastle
Hymn: #798 The Lord's Prayer

God Listens

Jeremiah 29:11-14 Cam Hurst
Luke 11:1-4 Cam Hurst
Prayer Jim Carpenter

Songs of Praise

Hymn: #577 We Bow Down*
Hymn The River Is Here

We Celebrate the Lord's Supper

Hymn: #186 Christ, We do All Adore Thee
Communion Meditation Cliff Barbarick
Hymn Love Come Down

Offering

Prayer Cliff Barbarick
Hymn Create In Me A Clean Heart

"Teach Us to Pray"

Hymn: #555 Seek Ye First
(Parents may escort children to TLC during this song.)
Message Nathan Burrow
Hymn: #791 On Bended Knee

Responses

Family News Yancey House
Hymn: #827 Sweet Hour of Prayer
Elder Blessing Charles Perkins
(Children's Song of the Month)*

Hillcrest Family News

Today's Speakers

A.M. - Nathan Burrow

P.M. - Bible Class Fellowship – Travelers class will lead the service in the chapel at 6 p.m.

Congratulations

Congratulations to Billy & Rachel Lee on the birth of a son, Charlie Lee on May 2. Grandparents are J.R. & Carmen Foster. Great-grandparents are Mac & Sue McCollum.

Baptism

Jermey Breth, grandson of deceased member, Bonnie Walker on May 4.

Bridal Shower - May 7, 2-3:30 p.m.

Honoring Sierra Ware (daughter of Ken & Lorri Ware, granddaughter of David and Linda Lawrence) at the home of Linda Varner (13 Hilliard Cir.) Selections: Dillard's and Bed, Bath, and Beyond.

Hillcrest Softball - Tomorrow, 8 p.m., Field 3

Tomorrow's game is a double header against Aldergate UMC & Baker Heights. (9 p.m. on field 2)

Get to Know Nathan

If you haven't had a chance to meet or visit with Nathan, feel free to drop by the office any Tuesday from 11 a.m. to 2 p.m. His door will be open.

Senior Sunday - May 21

Hillcrest will be celebrating our High School graduates soon. Bins have been placed in the hallway across from the MPR so that you can have the chance to give a gift to our graduating Seniors. Graduating High School Seniors:

Carisa Brawley	Thomas Light
Ashlynn Brooks	Collin Longoria
Dylan Cox	Jade Martinez
Molly Earles	Allen Price
Tatum Hines	Kaleb Watson
Kendall Houston	

MLB - Men's Day - Saturday, June 3

Join us for Men's Life Breakfast and Burgers at Bill Walker's! We will start with donuts, fruit, coffee & juice at 8:30. We will have a devotional in the barn at 9:15. The horseshoe tournament will start at 10 a.m. along with disc golf, washers, ladder golf, ping pong, "42" and Jokers & Marbles. Lunch will begin at 11:30. Help will be needed setting up, cooking and shuttling people from the parking area. If you have any questions, call Bill Walker (232-3292), David Beard (309-313-5550) or Alan Clute (691-4217). Sign up in Bible class.

Ties for Zimbabwe

Remember that tie that did not win "The First Annual Maybe Never to be Repeated Ugly Tie Contest" last year? Perhaps it could "win" in Zimbabwe! Seriously though, those going to Zimbabwe this year (Ken Austin, Kevin Batten, Brian Davis, John Fewkes, and Cam Hurst) would like to take ties to share with our brothers in Zimbabwe. Please put your gifted tie(s) in the box beside the welcome table by May 28th.

Thank You from Christian Service Center

Dear Hillcrest Family: Thank you so much for your very generous donation of \$5000 to the Christian Service Center. These funds will go a long way in enabling us to bless the many people in poverty that come to us each week day needing the basics of life. We also want to thank you for the current Hillcrest volunteers and new ones you've sent our way. Your church is a blessing to us, to those we serve and to so many others in the community! May our Lord Jesus Christ continue to work through you to preach the good news of our risen King and display His love in practical ways in the Abilene Community and beyond. With Gratitude in Christ, Jim Clark, Director, & the Christian Service Center Board

Canton Disaster Relief

We are working with the Canton Church of Christ to help the church and community recover from the recent tornado devastation. If you would like to contribute, please give your donation to an elder or Bernie Kastner.

Missions and Faith Sharing

Please join African Christian College in celebrating its 50th Anniversary of work for God in Swaziland. The free event is Monday, May 15, at 6:30 p.m. at Southern Hills Church of Christ, and includes a meal with macadamia nuts grown on the school's property. You will meet some graduates of the college and hear inspiring stories from Brad Carter, ACC President. Registration for this free event is at www.AfricanChristianCollege.org/Abilene50 or 325-261-9207. Hillcrest formerly supported this ministry when it was called Manzini School of Preaching.

Calendar of Events

May 7	Bible Class Fellowship
May 21	HYG Senior Sunday
May 24	Mesos Pylona
May 29	Office Closed/Memorial Day
June 3.....	Men's Life Breakfast at Bill Walker's
June 11.....	Bible Class Fellowship
June 18-21	VBS

Hillcrest Ministries

Children's Corner

Nursery: 2-24 Months (TEAM #1)

Training and Learning for Children (Children's Church): (Ages 2-4) Parents may escort their child to the Children's Wing during the song before the sermon.

No Bible Hour - Enjoy Bible Class Fellowship.

VBS - June 18-21, 2017

Register online at www.hillcrestonline.com/events/vbs/

HYG – Youth

Tonight - 6 p.m. - Huddles

Wednesday – 7 p.m. - Bible Class in the youth room.

Thursday - 7 a.m. - Chick-fil-A Prayer Breakfast

May 21 - Senior Sunday

Summer Kick off - June 4 (more details soon)

Encounter (June 11-17) for those entering 9th grade - graduating seniors

Camp Champion (June 28-July 3) for those entering 6th-8th grade

Pine Springs - July 29-August 4, for incoming 7th graders through graduating seniors. Go to pinespringscamp.com to sign up.

Hillcrest - U

Tonight - 5 p.m. - Graduate Celebration!

We are honoring 15 graduates this year in Neal and Cynthia Coates backyard (1726 Cedar Crest)! Those graduating are Manaia Broom, Philomena DeHoyos, Averi Edwards, Jaymie Fuller, Katelyn Goodman, Kayla Holcomb, Callie Houston, Courtney LeFan, Meagan McBride, Jonathan McCormick, Savannah Pybus, Vicente Rojas, Denae Shake, Jordan Snell, Jonathan Ward, and Sierra Ware.

All of our usual events are put on hold for the summer break! We will still meet for class on Wednesday evening.

Wednesday - 7 p.m., Class

Adult Education Corner

Sunday Morning Adult Classes – The series on the book of Philippians continues.

Ladies Tuesday Morning Bible Class - May 9, 10 a.m.

Surprise topic for class, & luncheon will follow at the home of Nathan & Heather Burrow.

Wednesday Night Classes

- Rm 10/11 - Bill Brant begins series titled "What do we do with Jesus?"
- Rm 16 – Congregational Singing: Join Odies Wright for a time of worship in song!
- Rm 30 – ESL Class
- Rm 51 – Class for Singles led by Glenn Tuttle
- Rm 52 – Divorce Care will resume in the fall.
- Rm 212 – Class for Young Professionals
- Rm 219 – Women's Bible Class: Daring Faith by Randy Harris and Greg Taylor. Women of all ages are invited.

Family Ministry

Wednesday Night Class - 7 p.m., Rm 14/15,

Baptism - Sharing the Story as A Family

Everyone knows someone, whether a friend or family member, who has not made the choice to be baptized. You may have a friend that is struggling with the thought of Christianity, but don't know how to approach them biblically. You may be a parent of a child that is getting close to "that age" and you're concerned, but don't know how to approach it. In this class, you will not only learn ways to share the gospel with someone you know, but as a parent you can bring your whole family and share in a guided study together! After a short intro, small groups (or families) will go through a guided Bible study together, and then close with a short discussion all together. Don't miss this great opportunity to share in a guided Bible study that will strengthen your own faith, as well as help you in sharing your faith!

For the Record

Sunday Morning	Sunday Evening
A.M. Assembly	N/C Chapel
Bible Class	N/C
Membership	888 Wed.....
April Offering	\$91,391